

## REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claims 1-8 and 17-24 are pending in the application. Reconsideration in view the following remarks is respectfully requested. The Office Action rejects claims 10-21 under 35 U.S.C. 112 second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which Applicants regard as the invention. The Office Action also rejects claims 1-21 under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Parady (U.S. Patent No. 5,933,627).

The Title is amended to reflect the Examiner's suggested Title. Claims 1, 10, 16 and 18 are amended to overcome objections and claims 10 and 16 are amended to overcome 35 U.S.C. 112 second paragraph rejections as well.

Applicants respectfully submit that none of the cited sections of Parady teach, suggest or reflect at least "[a] method of handling operations in a multi-threaded processing system, comprising determining if a stalled operation of a first thread is due to a loading of data from a memory device and flushing an instruction from said first thread from a pipeline of said processing system when data is to be loaded from said memory device before executing said instruction" [as in amended claim 1].

Applicants respectfully submit that the cited references do not contain such limitations anywhere in their disclosures. The Office Action states that Parady:

"...discloses a method of handling operations in a multi-threaded processing system (figures 1 and 3) comprising... flushing an instruction from said first thread from a pipeline of said processing system when data is to be loaded from said memory device before executing said instruction. As shown above, the system switches threads when data is to be loaded from said memory device before executing said instruction. Column 4, lines 42-48 show that the thread with the memory access instruction is later re-executed once scheduled. This means that the instruction did not finish execution when the thread switch occurred and must have been flushed".

Column 4 lines 42-48 of Parady states:

"In a preferred embodiment, upon a completion of the memory access which caused the thread switch, the thread with the memory access must wait until it is pointed to

again by the round robin or thread pointer bits to continue with its operation. Alternately, a particular thread could be identified as a critical thread, and generate an interrupt as soon as the memory access is completed”.

The cited sections in Parady describe the operation of the completion of memory access and the ramifications of such access on the execution of the thread. Parady specifically states “...the thread with the memory access must wait until it is pointed to again by the round robin or thread pointer bits to continue with its operation”. Parady discloses that the thread is still active during and after the memory access process, but nowhere in Parady is the specific limitation “...flushing an instruction from said first thread from a pipeline of said processing system...” (as recited in claim 1) mentioned in Parady. The Office Action’s assertion that the instruction “must have been flushed” is merely a naked assumption that is not supported by the Parady reference. Applicants respectfully submit that such an assumption fails to account for the myriad of other possibilities that the operation of the Parady reference could well have required. Therefore, the use of Parady on the basis of assumption is insufficient to support a 102(b) reference rejection.

In order for a 102(b) rejection to succeed, each and every limitation of independent claim 1 must be in the cited prior art. Since each and every limitation is not found in the cited references, the 102(b), claim 1 is allowable and the 102(b) rejection should be withdrawn. Independent claims 5, 10, and 16 contain substantively similar limitations and therefore are also allowable for similar reasons. Claims 2-4, 6-9, 11-15 and 17-21 depend from allowable independent claims 1, 5, 10 and 16, and therefore are in condition for allowance as well.

For at least the above reasons, Applicants respectfully submit that this application is in condition for allowance. A Notice of Allowance is earnestly solicited.

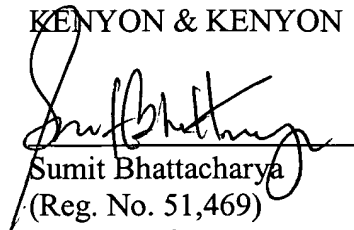
The Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at (408) 975-7500 to discuss any matter concerning this application. The Office is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees or credit any overpayments to Deposit Account No. 11-0600.

Respectfully submitted,

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